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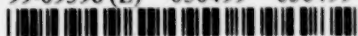
**Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent
disintegration of States**

**Letter dated 1 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of
Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communiqué issued by the Government of Venezuela on 31 March 1999 concerning the crisis in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this communiqué circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 64.

(Signed) Ignacio **Arcaya**
Ambassador



Annex

Communiqué issued on 31 March 1999 by the Government of Venezuela concerning the crisis in Kosovo

The Government of Venezuela, as a founding Member of the United Nations and as a democratic country, reaffirms its commitment to the principles that have guided its foreign policy: settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, defence of human rights, respect for the sovereignty of States and respect for international humanitarian law.

Based on these considerations, we urge all the parties involved in the conflict in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to revert to and exhaust all the peaceful means available under international law to stop the armed conflict that has been waged in recent weeks in that part of the European continent.

In this connection, we cannot conceal our concern about the use of force in that conflict, in disregard of the provisions of Articles 53 and 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, which clearly stipulate that the Security Council must authorize and be kept informed of military activities undertaken by any regional entity.

For all these reasons, the Government of Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to the United Nations, considering that it is the multilateral arrangement that governs contemporary international relations and the fundamental instrument for ending hostilities, as well as its commitment to the resumption of political negotiations at various levels with a view to the conclusion of a peace agreement that will avoid more bloodshed, more refugees and greater social costs for the populations affected, particularly the Kosovar people of Albanian origin, since all these phenomena adversely affect human rights and world peace.
